Functioning of Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Ltd.

*15. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main lines of business of the Hindustan Vegetable CIL Corporation; and

(b) whether it has also undertaken the task of refining and packing Oil Corporation; and

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) The Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd. (HVOC) is engaged in the manufacture of Vanaspati, refining and packing of imported and indigenous edible oils and production of Breakfast food items.

(b) HVOC has not undertaken refining of coconut oil at any time. During 1984, the Corporation packed imported refine and deodorised coconut oil in one and two kg., consumer packs for supply under PDS.

Procedure for accounting assets in Super Bazar

*16. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pocedure followed in Super Bazar to account for their assets in their Branch Stores, Regional Distribution Centres, Branch-wise as on date;

(b) the number of physical verifications of stocks conducted during the years 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and so far in 1994;

(c) the follow up action taken on irregularities found during the verification;

(d) the number of employees found involved in embezzlement and misappropriation and the action taken against them; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) All the assets required by Branches and Regional Distribution Centres of Super Bazar are acquired centrally at head-quarters and subsequently transferred to the Branches/RDCs as per their requisition. The account of the assets acquired by Super Bazar is kept in the "Assets Register' maintained at headquarters. Physical verification of assets is conducted alongwith the Annual Stock taking of the Store on yearly basis.

(b) Physical verification of stock of each and every Branch/Store/Department is conducted annually at the end of the financial year. Besides the annual stock taking, surprise stock checks were also conducted as shown below:—

Year	No. of Branches/ Mobile Vans/ Departments/Stores
1990-91 . . .	104
1991-92 . . .	90
1992-93 . . .	30
1993-94 . . .	43

(c) If the results of verification of stock reveal shortage of stock above the permissible limits, disciplinary proceedings are initiated against the concerned employees and recoveries from their salaries are made in respect of the said shortages.

(d) and (e) Orders in the cases of 83 employees where major penalty proceedings for stock shortages and other irregularities had been initiated, were passed during the financial

year 1993-94. Besides, recovery action for stock shortage was taken in cases involving 450 employees.

Import export units hit by strike of DGFT Officials

*17. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the import-export units in the Capital have been grossly affected due to strike by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) officials;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the strike;

(c) whether Government propose to probe the matter and book the culprits; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There was no strike in the Head Quarters office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, However, in the Regional Offices of the Organisation,, there was a pen down strike due to the arrest of one official at Pondicherry under COFEPOSA. All urgent requirements of the Import-Export Units were attended to at Headquarters office and by the Officers in Regional Offices. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the culprits.

Industrial Mission to China

*18. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an 11-member industrial mission of the Confederation of Indian Industries, visited China in the last week of June, 1994 and if so, whether it has submitted its report to Government;

(b) what was its assessment about the potential for Indo-Chinese Co-operation in Industrial and trade deveolpment; and

(c) whether any meeting of the Joint Commission of India and China was also held recently to assess such cooperation potential and areas of cooperation and if so; what decisions were taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, an 11-member mission from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited China in June 1994. Report of the mission is awaited.

(c) During the meeting of the India-China Joint Group of Economic Cooperation, Trade Science and Technology held in New Delhi from June 13 to 15, 1994, the following areas of cooperation were identified:

(i) to conduct joint market surveys and undertake other trade promotion measures to increase bilateral trade.

(ii) to explore possibilities of forming joint ventures and jointly contracting projects in third countries.

(iii) to explore possibility of bilaterial cooperation in the fields of iron and steel, railway, telecommunications aviation water conservancy, coal and iron ore mining, metallurgy, auto components, computer software, pharmaceuticals, fisheries and agro products.

(iv) to participate in tenders for projects to be financed by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank or other International financial organisations in either of the two countries.